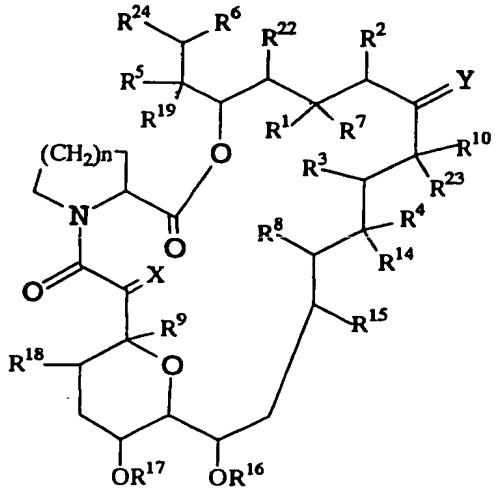
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~agent~~ method of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the macrolide compound is a tricyclo compound (I) of the following formula



(I)

wherein

adjacent pairs of R^1 and R^2, R^3 and R^4, and R^5 and R^6 each independently

a) consist of two adjacent hydrogen atoms, wherein R^2 is optionally alkyl, or

b) form another bond between carbon atoms binding with the members of each pair;

R^7 is hydrogen atom, hydroxy, alkyloxy or protected hydroxy, or may form oxo with R^1;

R^8 and R^9 each independently ~~show~~ are hydrogen atom or hydroxy;

R^{10} is hydrogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, alkenyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, or alkyl substituted by oxo;

X is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula $-CH_2O-$;

Y is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula $N-NR^{11}R^{12}$ or $N-OR^{13}$;

R^{11} and R^{12} each independently ~~show~~ are hydrogen atom, alkyl, aryl or tosyl;

R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{22} and R^{23} each independently ~~show~~ are hydrogen atom or alkyl;

R^{24} is an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains one or more hetero atom(s); and

n is 1 or 2,

wherein

Y, R^{10} and R^{23} optionally form, together with the carbon atom they bind with, a saturated or unsaturated 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and/or oxygen atom, wherein the heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more group(s) selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, benzyl, a group of the formula $-CH_2Se(C_6H_5)$, and alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~agent~~ method of claim ~~1~~ 6 or claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~agent~~ method of ~~any of~~ claim ~~1 to claim 3~~ 6, ~~which~~ wherein said macrolide compound is administered in the form of a preparation suitable for local administration to the eye.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~agent~~ method of ~~any of~~ claim ~~1 to claim 4~~ 6, which ~~aims at improving~~ improves tear film breakup time.

Claim 6 (Original): A method for treating a dry eye, comprising administering directly to the eye an effective amount of a macrolide compound to a subject in need of the treatment of dry eye.

B2 cont.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Newly Added): The method of claim 6, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in the form of a preparation suitable for local administration.

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Claim 9 (Newly Added): The method of claim 6, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in an amount of 0.0001 to 1000 mg.

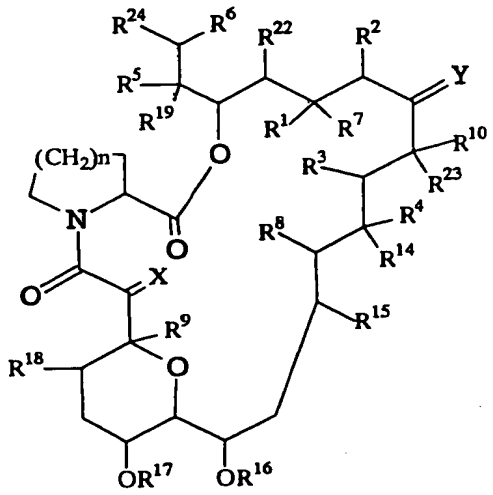
Claim 10 (Newly Added): The method of claim 9, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 11 (Newly Added): The method of claim 6, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in an amount of 0.001 to 500 mg.

Claim 12 (Newly Added): The method of claim 11, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 13 (Newly Added): A method for improving the stability of tear film, comprising administering an effective amount of macrolide compound to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 14 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein the macrolide compound is a tricyclo compound (I) of the following formula



(I)

wherein

adjacent pairs of R^1 and R^2, R^3 and R^4, and R^5 and R^6 each independently

a) consist of two adjacent hydrogen atoms, wherein R^2 is optionally alkyl, or

b) form another bond between carbon atoms binding with the members of each pair;

R^7 is hydrogen atom, hydroxy, alkyloxy or protected hydroxy, or may form oxo with R^1;

R^8 and R^9 each independently are hydrogen atom or hydroxy;

R^{10} is hydrogen atom, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, alkenyl substituted by one or more hydroxy, or alkyl substituted by oxo;X is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula $-CH_2O-$;

Y is oxo, (hydrogen atom, hydroxy), (hydrogen atom, hydrogen atom), or a group of the formula $N-NR^{11}R^{12}$ or $N-OR^{13}$;

R^{11} and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen atom, alkyl, aryl or tosyl;

R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{22} and R^{23} each independently are hydrogen atom or alkyl;

R^{24} is an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains one or more hetero atom(s); and

n is 1 or 2,

wherein

Y, R^{10} and R^{23} optionally form, together with the carbon atom they bind with, a saturated or unsaturated 5 or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing nitrogen atom, sulfur atom and/or oxygen atom, wherein the heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more group(s) selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkyloxy, benzyl, a group of the formula $-CH_2Se(C_6H_5)$, and alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 15 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein the macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 16 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in the form of a preparation suitable for local administration to the eye.

Claim 17 (Newly Added): The method of claim 16, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

B3 cont.

Claim 18 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in the form of a preparation suitable for local administration.

Claim 19 (Newly Added): The method of claim 18, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 20 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in an amount of 0.0001 to 1000 mg.

Claim 21 (Newly Added): The method of claim 20, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

Claim 22 (Newly Added): The method of claim 13, wherein said macrolide compound is administered in an amount of 0.001 to 500 mg.

Claim 23 (Newly Added): The method of claim 22, wherein said macrolide compound is FK506.

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Claim 24 (Newly Added): An agent for local administration to the eye for treating a dry eye, comprising FK506 as an active ingredient.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 2-5 to depend from Claim 6, rather than canceled Claim 1. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 2-5 can be found in the same claims, as originally filed.

Applicants have also added new Claims 8-24.

Support for new Claims 8 and 18 can be found on page 11, lines 15-20, of the specification.

Support for new claims 9, 11, 20, and 22 can be found on page 11, lines 24-30.

Support for new Claims 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 can be found in original Claim 3.

Support for new Claim 13 can be found on page 11, lines 8-11.

Support for new Claims 14 and 16 can be found in original Claims 2 and 4.

Support for new Claim 24 can be found in original Claims 1, 3, and 4.

No new matter has been added. Claims 2-6 and 8-24 are active in this application.

REMARKS

Present Claims 2-6 and 8-12 relate to a method for treating a dry eye, comprising administering an effective amount of a macrolide compound to a subject in need of the treatment of dry eye.

Present Claims 13-23 relate to a method for improving the stability of tear film, comprising administering an effective amount of macrolide compound to a subject in need thereof.